

1720.

6 CHARLES Lord BALTIMORE.

C H A P.
XXIV.

General Issue
pleadable.

III. And be it further Enacted, *as aforesaid*, That it shall and may be lawful for the Defendant or Defendants in such Suits to give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence, without Specially Pleading the same; any Law, Statute, Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Examined and Compared with the Original Act, REVERDY GHISELIN,
THOMAS BACON.

C H A P. XXV.

Passed 27th
October 1720.

An ACT declaring the Punishment for Burning of Court-houses.
Lib. LL. N^o 4. fol. 505.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is represented to this present General Assembly, That there remained some Doubt in the Law, whether the Burners of Court-houses should have the same Judgment as against Clerks convicted, or to suffer Death; on which Doubt, the last Provincial Court, in Favour of Life, gave Judgment against the Person convicted for Burning *Kent County Court-house*, only that he should be burnt in the Hand, &c. To clear up which Doubt for the future,

Persons convicted of wilfully burning Court-houses shall suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy.

II. Be it Enacted, *by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same*, That any Person or Persons whatsoever, that shall hereafter be convicted of wilfully Burning any Court-house within this Province, wherein any Records actually or usually are kept, although the same be not a Mansion-house, or such other House, for the Burning whereof the Offenders might heretofore have had the Benefit of Clergy, shall have Judgment to suffer Death, in the same Manner as if such Offender had been convicted of maliciously and wilfully Burning a Mansion-house; any Law, Statute or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Examined and Compared with the Original Act, REVERDY GHISELIN,
THOMAS BACON.

C H A P. XXVI.

Passed 27th
October 1720.

*1715, ch.36.

A Supplementary ACT to the Act, entitled, * An Act for laying an Imposition on Negroes, and on several Sorts of Liquors imported, and also on *Irish* Servants, to prevent the Importing too great a Number of *Irish* Papists into this Province. *Lib. LL. N^o 4. fol. 506.*

Preamble.

WHEREAS there is a certain Clause in the said recited Act, encouraging Residents of this Province to build and purchase Ships and Vessels, thereby acquitting them from the Payment of several Duties on Negroes, Rum, &c. and it being represented to this General Assembly, That sundry Abuses have been committed by several Persons, Residents of this Province, by purchasing Vessels, and obtaining Registers, suggesting themselves to be sole Owners, when perhaps they have suddenly disposed of great Part of their Interest in the said Vessels to Persons not residing here, and have still had the Benefit of the said Clause, as if all the Owners had actually resided here, after such Sale, to the defrauding of the Public: For prevention of which Abuses for the future, it is prayed that it may be Enacted,

Resident Owners of any Ship or Vessel, shall make Oath before the Naval Officer.

II. And be it Enacted, *by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same*, That the Owner or Owners of every Ship or Vessel residing in this Province, shall be obliged, either at the Time of Entry of such Ship or Vessel, or some Time before her Clearance, to apply him or themselves to the Naval Officer of the District where such Ship or Vessel shall load or unload, which Officer aforesaid is hereby empowered.